

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-14, 17-18 and 19 remain herein. Claims 1 and 17 are amended. Claims 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 19 is added; see the language of prior claim 17.

1. Claim 1 is amended and the objection to dependent claim 6 is thereby mooted.

2. Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 16 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Independent claims 1 and 17 are amended to incorporate the elements previously recited in claim 16. Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled.

4. Claims 1, 3-7, 11, 14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over Du '096. Claims 8-10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Du '096. Claims 1 and 17 are amended to incorporate the elements of canceled allowable claim 16. Thus, claims 1, 3-14, 17 and 18 are patentable over Du '096.

5. Claims 1, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over Suzuki JP2001-356404. Claims 1 and 17 are amended to incorporate the elements of canceled allowable claim 16. Thus, claims 1, 17 and 18 are patentable over Suzuki JP2001-356404.

6. Claims 1, 3, 6, 11, 14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over Yokoyama '400. Claims 1 and 17 are amended to incorporate the elements of canceled allowable claim 16. Thus, claims 1, 3, 6, 11, 14, 17 and 18 are patentable over Yokoyama '400.

7. Claims 1, 3-7, 11, 14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over Omoda JP2003-299088. Claims 1 and 17 are amended to incorporate the elements of canceled allowable claim 16. Thus, claims 1, 3-7, 11, 14, 17 and 18 are patentable over Omoda JP2003-299088.

8. Claims 1, 4-7 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over Hooker '463. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the elements of canceled allowable claim 16. Thus, claims 1, 4-7 and 11 are patentable over Hooker '463.

9. New claim 19 is dependent upon claim 1, which includes the elements of canceled allowable claim 16.

For all of the foregoing reasons, all claims 1 and 3-14, 17-18 and 19 are now fully in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge or credit any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendments would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, he is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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